

JUL 7 1997

CONNECTION

Information for Teachers

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ALBERTA EDUCATION
Vol. 6, No. 1, May 1997

Connection is a publication of the Student Programs and Evaluation Division.

Outside Edmonton, dial 310-0000 for toll-free connection to any Alberta Education telephone number.

AT A GLANCE

Resources listed are those authorized between January 1, 1997 and April 25, 1997.

Local Approval of Resources 1

ECS-GRADE 12

CAMP	2
Distance Learning	2
Provincial Achievement Testing	2
Special Education	2

ECS-ELEMENTARY

Recently authorized resources PLUS	
Kindergarten Guide to Implementation	4
Curriculum Handbooks for Parents, Kindergarten	4

ELEMENTARY-JUNIOR HIGH

Curriculum Handbooks for Parents, Grade 1 to Grade 9	5
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JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH

Recently authorized resources PLUS	
CTS Implementation	6
ADLC Question Banks	7

JUNIOR HIGH

Recently authorized resources	8
-------------------------------------	---

SENIOR HIGH

Recently authorized resources PLUS	
Diploma Examinations Program	8
ESL Program of Studies	8

OTHER NEWS

Evidence and Investigation Science Videos	10
Pacific Rim Profiles	10
<i>Partners in Learning</i>	10
School Achievement Indicators	
Program (SAIP)	10
Standards in Education Video	11
LRDC	11
Next Issue	12

LOCAL APPROVAL OF RESOURCES

Alberta Education withdraws learning and teaching resources from the provincial list of approved materials for a variety of reasons; e.g., the resource is out of print; a new edition has been published; the program has been revised. Resources that are under curricular review are noted with an asterisk (*) in the Learning Resources Distributing Centre *Buyers Guide*. Under section 44 (2) of the *School Act*, school boards may approve materials for their schools, including resources that are withdrawn from the provincial list. **Many school boards have delegated this power to approve resources to school staff or other board employees under section 45 (1) of the *School Act*.**

RESOURCES NOTE

The authorized resources listed herein, basic and teaching, are all approved and available for purchase from the LRDC, unless otherwise indicated by separate statement.

LRDC Ordering

Orders can be placed through:

Learning Resources Distributing Centre
12360 - 142 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5L 4X9

Telephone: 403-427-5775

Fax: 403-422-9750

Web Site: <<http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca/lrdc>>

ECS—GRADE 12 CURRICULUM AND RESOURCES

CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT MATERIALS PROJECT

Materials and Inservice

Inservice sessions were held across the province during the week of March 17–21 on the use of materials developed through the Classroom Assessment Materials Project (CAMP). Approximately 1000 teachers participated, and they will now be able to provide local leadership to teachers wishing to use these materials. Classroom assessment materials have been developed in the core academic subjects for grades 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8. Materials have also been developed for some high school courses. All the materials are for teachers' discretionary use and can be purchased from the LRDC.

For more information on local inservices, contact your Regional Professional Development Consortium or your principal.

For more information on the materials, contact Terry Gamble at 403–427–0010.

DISTANCE LEARNING

For what is new in distance learning, and for up-to-date information on developments in distance learning courseware, pay a visit to the Alberta Distance Learning Centre's web site production schedule at <<http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca/level3/adlc/400/schedule.html>>.

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTING

Provincial Diploma Examination and Achievement Test Results on CD–ROM

A CD–ROM, now available in spreadsheet and database formats, provides school and jurisdiction results from diploma examinations and achievement tests administered in the past five years. Participation rates are included, as well as guidelines for interpreting the information. The disc can be purchased from the LRDC—product order number 332461.

For more information, contact Nelly McEwen at 403–427–0010.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities, Book 6 in the *Programming for Students with Special Needs* series, has been developed by the Special Education Branch. This resource discusses the conceptual model and applications of the domain model; and it includes identification and program planning, addressing early identification, assessment, learning styles and long-range planning. The resource also contains practical strategies within specific domains, including metacognitive, information processing, communication, academic and social/adaptive. It addresses other learning difficulties, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD) and fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS). It also includes appendices that contain lists of annotated resources, test inventories, support network contacts and blackline masters.

Copies of this resource can be purchased from the LRDC—product order number 315699.

For more information about content, contact Greg Bishop at 403–422–6326.

ECS—ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM AND RESOURCES

GENERAL INFORMATION

For information on elementary programs in **English**, call 403–427–2984.

For information on elementary programs in **French**, call 403–427–2940.

For resources information, in either English or French, consult the *Buyers Guide*, contact the LRDC directly, or see the Authorized Resources Database on the Alberta Education web site.

Teaching Resources

- **Active Learning**
 - *A Primary Look at S.M.A.R.T.*
 - *It's Sand-Sational: Sand Activities for the Classroom*
 - *Discover Art Kindergarten Kit*
 - *The DLM Professional Library*
 - *The Bilingual Classroom*
 - *Developmentally Appropriate Assessment*
 - *Practices in the Early Childhood Classroom*
 - *Reaching High Potentials*
 - *Storytelling*
 - *Thinking and Reasoning*
 - *Finger Frolics: Fingerplays for Young Children*
 - *Folens Science in Action*
 - *About Me: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 4–5 Life Forces*
 - *Building Things: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 5–6 Structures*
 - *The Garden: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 5–6 Life Forces*
 - *How Does It Move? Teacher's Resource Book: Age 5–6 Movement*
 - *The Park: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 4–5 Leisure*
 - *The Seaside: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 5–6 Leisure*
 - *Wheels: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 4–5 Movement*
 - *Where I Live: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 4–5 Structures*
 - *Folens Technology in Action*
 - *A Place to Live: Age 4–5 Structures*
 - *By the Sea: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 5–6 Leisure*
 - *Day and Night: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 5–6 Movement*
 - *Home Sweet Home: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 5–6 Structures*
 - *It's Magic: Age 4–5 Leisure*

Note: Some community members may be concerned about activities that are labelled “magic.” However, these activities are based on scientific principles; e.g., the properties of matter.

 - *Let's Celebrate: Age 4–5 Life Forces*
 - *Playtime: Age 4–5 Movement*
 - *Teddy Bear's Picnic: Teacher's Resource Book: Age 5–6 Life Forces*
 - *HBJ Social Studies*
 - *Everyone Has a Job to Do*
 - *Lap Book*
 - *Teaching Guide*
 - *The Garden*
 - *Lap Book*
 - *Teaching Guide*
 - *The More We Get Together*
 - *Lap Book*
 - *Teaching Guide*
 - *Home Working*
 - *101 Everyday Activities for Better Reading and Writing*
 - *101 Everyday Activities in Mathematics*
 - *101 Everyday Activities in Science and Technology*
 - *101 Everyday Activities in Social Studies, Media, and Life Skills*
 - *Human Body*
 - *Ears*
 - *Eyes*
 - *Feet*
 - *Hands*
 - *Mouth*
 - *Nose*
 - *Learning Through Play Language: A Practical Guide for Teaching Young Children*
 - *Lego Idea Box [includes Lego Dacta Idea Box Teacher Guide and Activity Cards]*
 - *More Story S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-R-S: Activities to Expand Children's Favorite Books*
 - *Mudworks: Creative Clay, Dough, and Modeling Experiences*
- Note:** Some community members may be concerned about activities that use food products, including peanut butter; e.g., wasting food, allergies, etc.
- *Music & Movement in the Classroom [kit]*
 - *Peter Puffin and the Whales*
 - *Realization*
 - *The Paper Skyscraper: The Technology of Materials [Big Book]*
 - *Roots and Wings: Affirming Culture in Early Childhood Programs*
 - *Science Alive*
 - *Living and Learning Starter Pack*
 - *Big Book*
 - *I'm Alive*
 - *I'm Hungry*
 - *I'm Learning*
 - *I'm Moving*
 - *Living and Learning Teachers' Resource*

- *What's It Like? Starter Pack*
 - *Helping Hands*
 - *How's That?*
 - *Just a Touch*
 - *Look at That*
 - *What's It Like? Big Book*
 - *What's It Like? Teachers' Resource*
- *Seahouse Series II*
 - *Colors and Patterns*
 - *Crabs, Lobsters and Shrimp*
 - *Deep & Dark*
 - *The Dolphin*
 - *Little Wanderers*
 - *The Manatee*
 - *The Moving Island*
 - *Seeing Underwater*
 - *The Shark*
- *Story S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-R-S: Activities to Expand Children's Favorite Books*
- *Teaching Kindergarten: A Developmentally Appropriate Approach*
- *Theme Series for Primary Grades:*
 - *Volume I*
 - *Bears*
 - *Bedtime*
 - *Butterflies & Moths*
 - *Cats and Dogs*
 - *Fish*
 - *Growing Up*
 - *Homes*
 - *Safety*
 - *Snow*
 - *Transportation*
 - *Trees and Leaves*
 - *Vegetables/Fruits*
 - *Volume II*
 - *Alphabet*
 - *Bugs*
 - *Colors*
 - *Elephants*
 - *Farm Animals*
 - *Kid's Earth Book*
 - *Mice*
 - *Numbers*
 - *"100"*
 - *Our Five Senses*
 - *Pigs*
 - *Space*
- *Transition Time: Let's Do Something Different!*
- *What Kind of Family Do You Have?*
- *Whole Language Literature Activities for Young Children*

It is intended that an annotated list of authorized resources be included in the Kindergarten Guide to Implementation.

Guide to Implementation

In response to requests from schools, a Guide to Implementation, intended to assist teachers in implementing the Kindergarten Program Statement, is currently under development.

Contributions from teachers across Alberta will help make this guide a practical and useful planning tool. We encourage kindergarten teachers to share resources, ideas, strategies and examples in the following areas:

- planning and organizational strategies; e.g., sample day/unit plans, year plans
- student assessment and reporting; e.g., checklists, anecdotal notes, portfolio ideas, reporting formats—may be blank or filled out
- school-home communication; e.g., newsletters, sample notes, communication book ideas
- volunteers in the classroom
- teaching/learning strategies; e.g., centre ideas, cooperative learning strategies, circle time, centre planning boards
- planning for children's differing needs; e.g., special needs, French Immersion, English as a Second Language, First Nations
- working with a teacher aide; e.g., job description, communication
- orientation to Kindergarten and Grade 1
- samples of student work; e.g., emergent writing, centre work, artwork
- other practical ideas.

Submissions will be accepted until the end of June 1997. Early submissions would be appreciated, and all submissions used will be acknowledged.

If you would like to submit material for the guide, or require further information, contact Jennifer Bushrod at 403-422-0624.

Curriculum Handbooks for Parents

A handbook entitled *Kindergarten in Alberta: Answering Parents' Questions* has been developed as part of the *Curriculum Handbooks for Parents* series.

This handbook will be helpful to parents, by describing how young children learn, how learning is assessed, what can be expected of a kindergarten program, and how parents can be involved.

The kindergarten handbook is scheduled to be distributed to school board chairpersons, superintendents, school councils, school principals and ECS private operators, by the end of June. The handbook will also be available for purchase from the LRDC and for downloading and printing through the Alberta Education web site.

For more information, contact Jennifer Bushrod at 403-422-0624.

MATERNELLE

Enseignant

- Paul et Suzanne: Un modèle de francisation: Programme pour la jeune enfance

Pour plus de renseignements, contacter Suzanne Gareau-Kubicki au 403-427-2940, Téléc. 403-422-1947.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Teaching Resources

Grades 1-6

- *The Biggest Little Games Book Ever!*
 - Volume II
 - Games Using Small Equipment

SCIENCE

Teaching Resources

Grade 1

- *Science Alive*
 - *Living and Learning Starter Pack*
 - Big Book
 - I'm Alive
 - I'm Hungry
 - I'm Learning
 - I'm Moving
 - *Living and Learning Teachers' Resource*

- *What's It Like? Starter Pack*
 - *Helping Hands*
 - *How's That?*
 - *Just a Touch*
 - *Look at That*
 - *What's It Like? Big Book*
 - *What's It Like? Teachers' Resource*

SOCIAL STUDIES

Teaching Resources

Grade 5, Topic 5B

- *Beginnings: From the First Nations to the Great Migration: Teacher's Resource*

Grade 6, Topic 6B

- *A Time to Remember*
 - *Ancient Greece: Teacher Resource File*

UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE ARTS

Teaching Resources

Grade 2

- *Nova 2: A Ukrainian Language Development Series*
 - *Ukrainian Language Development Activities for Dialogues 1-13*

ELEMENTARY-JUNIOR HIGH CURRICULUM AND RESOURCES

CURRICULUM HANDBOOKS FOR PARENTS, GRADE 1 TO GRADE 9

Alberta Education has been updating the *Curriculum Handbooks for Parents* series for Grade 1 through Grade 9. Catholic versions of the 1997-1998 handbooks will also be available.

These handbooks will be helpful to parents who have children in elementary and junior high schools. The booklets provide clear, concise information about what students are expected to learn in each subject at each grade level.

The handbooks will be available for purchase through the Queen's Printer Bookstore at 403-427-4952, or from the LRDC. Albertans will also be able to access the handbooks for downloading and printing through the Alberta Education web site.

For more information, contact Gina Vivone-Vernon or Joan Engel at 403-427-2984, Fax 403-422-3745.

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND RESOURCES

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

Implementation

Several years of planning and development culminated on April 17, 1997 with the Minister of Education approving the CTS programs of study.

"I, Gary G. Mar, Minister of Education for the Province of Alberta, do hereby approve for use in Alberta schools, under section 25 (10)(a) of the School Act, the attached program of studies for Career and Technology Studies in English and French. The date of implementation will be September 1, 1997 for grades 7 to 12. This program replaces all business education, home economics, and industrial arts and vocational education courses as of September 1997."

Ministerial approval means full provincial implementation of CTS in junior and senior high schools effective September 1997.

An extensive network of teachers, administrators and business, professional and post-secondary representatives partnered in the development of CTS curricula. Individual modules have been available for optional use since 1992. The program has attracted national and international interest as a way of providing relevant and accessible career education to students.

Curriculum Structure

The CTS curriculum expands upon and replaces the existing business education, home economics and industrial arts courses in junior and senior high school. There are 22 career-area strands.

- Agriculture
- Career Transitions
- Communication Technologies
- Community Health
- Construction Technologies
- Cosmetology
- Design Studies
- Electro-Technologies
- Energy and Mines
- Enterprise and Innovation
- Fabrication Studies
- Fashion Studies
- Financial Management
- Foods
- Forestry
- Information Processing
- Legal Studies
- Logistics
- Management and Marketing
- Mechanics
- Tourism Studies
- Wildlife

Each CTS strand consists of a series of modules, or units, with clearly defined learner expectations. Modules are at the introductory, intermediate and advanced levels. In high school, each module is worth one credit. Schools have the flexibility to select and group modules together to create courses that match student needs and local resources.

Special features of the CTS program include:

- high standards that challenge students
- hands-on learning experiences
- learning in bite-size pieces
- links to other courses
- opportunities for new ways of delivering courses.

Curriculum Documents

To support each of the 22 programs of study is a *Guide to Standards and Implementation* (GSI). These GSIs provide strand-specific information regarding:

- program planning
- curriculum and assessment standards
- assessment tools
- linkages/transitions
- learning resources
- sample student learning guides.

The print copies of the 1997 GSIs are scheduled to be available for purchase through the LRDC, and electronically through the Alberta Education web site in June 1997.

Also available to support implementation of the CTS program is the August 1996 *Interim Career & Technology Studies Manual for Administrators, Counsellors and Teachers*. This manual is available for purchase from the LRDC and available for viewing and downloading through the Alberta Education web site.

Learning and Teaching Resources

A range of print and nonprint instructional materials have been authorized for each of the 22 CTS strands. Readers are advised to refer to the GSI, Section I, or to the Alberta Education web site for information regarding:

- resource authorization and status
- distributors/sources
- annotations
- module/level correlations.

For more information regarding CTS in the English language, contact Jan Mills at 403-422-3275, Edmonton, or Gary Bertrand at 403-297-5022, Calgary.

For more information regarding CTS in the French language, contact Paul Pelchat at 403-427-2940.

ÉTUDES PROFESSIONNELLES ET TECHNOLOGIQUES

De base

Gestion et marketing

Niveaux 1, 2, 3

- *La dynamique du marketing*
- *Le monde des affaires: Profil canadien. 2^e édition*

Droit

Niveaux 1 et 2

- *Manuel de l'étudiant*

Faune

Niveau 2

- *Guide d'identification des Oiseaux de l'Amérique du Nord*

Technologies des communications

Niveaux 2 et 3

- *Le métier de script*

Pour plus de renseignements, contacter Paul Pelchat au 403-427-2940, Téléc. 403-422-1947.

QUESTION BANK (ADLC) CD-ROM

In January 1997, the Alberta Distance Learning Centre released new LXR Question Bank CD-ROMs. These Macintosh or Windows CD-ROMs are available for use with LXR Test software.

The Macintosh CD-ROM contains approximately 45 000 test items for the following subjects: Biology 20, 30; Chemistry 20, 30; French Mathematics 20; Mathematics 10, 20, 30, 13, 23, 33, 31; Physics 20, 30; Science 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30; and Social Studies 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 13, 23, 33.

The Windows CD-ROM contains approximately 42 500 test items for the following subjects: Biology 20, 30; Chemistry 20, 30; French Mathematics 20; Mathematics 10, 20, 30, 13, 23, 33, 31; Physics 20, 30; Science 7, 8, 9, 10, 20; and Social Studies 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 13, 23, 33.

ADLC Question Bank CD-ROMs can be purchased from the LRDC. When ordering, please use the following *Buyers Guide* product order numbers:

Macintosh – 333097
Windows – 333089.

For more information on purchasing LXR Test software, contact the Instructional Technology and Media Unit of the Alberta Distance Learning Centre at 403-674-5333, or e-mail <adlc.itm@edc.gov.ab.ca>.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND RESOURCES

HYGIÈNE ET HABILETÉS PERSONNELLES

Enseignant

9^e année

- *Les Carrières de la formation universitaire*
- *Les Carrières du collégial*

Pour plus de renseignements, contacter Émile Mandin au 403-427-2940,
Télec. 403-422-1947.

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND RESOURCES

CARRIÈRE ET VIE 20

Enseignant

- *Les Carrières de la formation universitaire*
- *Les Carrières du collégial*

Pour plus de renseignements, contacter Émile Mandin au 403-427-2940,
Télec. 403-422-1947.

DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS PROGRAM

This year, for the first time, students were able to write diploma examinations in November and April, in addition to the usual times of January, June and August. Examinations in two courses were offered in November and in two different courses in April.

These additional examination administrations are designed to help accommodate students and to support schools in organizing instruction in a variety of different ways. In the coming school year, 1997-1998, three more diploma examinations will be offered in November and two more in April. Diploma examinations will be available in English 30, English 33, Chemistry 30, Mathematics 30 and Mathematics 33 for the

November 1997 administration, while Social Studies 30, Social Studies 33, Physics 30 and Biology 30 will be available for the April 1998 administration. The November and April examinations will be available only to students who have final school marks in the courses and to individuals having mature student status.

This pattern of five examinations in November and four in April will continue in subsequent years. Examination schedules and other information about the November and April examinations are available in your school and will be included in the *General Information Bulletin, Diploma Examinations Program, 1997-98 School Year*. The bulletin is provided to all high schools in the early fall.

For more information, contact Terry Banfield at 403-427-0010.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Program of Studies

The new senior high program of studies has five levels of proficiency. Each of the levels has its own course code, which becomes effective in the 1997-1998 school year: Level 1, ESL1120; Level 2, ESL1121; Level 3, ESL1122; Level 4, ESL1123; Level 5, ESL1125. Students will receive 5 credits upon successful completion of each of levels 2, 3 and 4, for a maximum of 15 credits. No credits will be awarded for completion of Level 1 and Level 5.

Teaching Resources

Level 1

- *ACCESS*
 - *Fundamentals of Literacy and Communication: Teacher's Guide*
- *Before Book One: Listening Activities for Prebeginning Students of English (Canadian Edition): Teacher's Manual*

Levels 1, 2

- *Listen First: Focused Listening Tasks for Beginners: Teacher's Book*
- *Purple Cows & Potato Chips: Multi-Sensory Language Acquisition Activities*

Levels 2–5

- Longman Grammar Series
 - *Focus on Grammar:*
 - *A Basic Course for Reference and Practice: Teacher's Manual*
 - *An Intermediate Course for Reference and Practice: Teacher's Manual*

Level 4

- *Write After: Group Projects as Pre-Writing Activities*

For more information, contact Dan Clarke at 403–427–0929.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

Basic Resources

German 10

- *Komm mit!*
 - *Holt German Level 1*
 - audiocassette program
 - practice and activity book
 - student text
 - *Sowieso: A German Course for Young People*
 - Cassette 1A
 - Cassette 1B
 - Textbook 1
 - Workbook 1
- Note:** Some community members may object to the grammatical exercise and poem about Dracula on page 46.

German 20

- *Komm mit!*
 - *Holt German Level 2*
 - audiocassette program
 - practice and activity book
 - student text

German 30

- *Deutsch Heute*
 - *Second edition*
 - *Teil 3* [student book]

Spanish 20

- *¡Acción! Level 2*
 - student text

Teaching Resources

German 10

- *Komm mit!*
 - *Holt German Level 1*
 - assessment guide
 - teacher's edition
 - teaching resources with organizer
 - teaching transparencies situations and maps
 - test generator [IBM]
 - video program
- *Sowieso: A German Course for Young People*
 - teacher's handbook

German 20

- *Komm mit!*
 - *Holt German Level 2*
 - assessment guide
 - teacher's edition
 - teaching resources with organizer
 - teaching transparencies situations and maps
 - test generator [IBM]
 - video program

German 30

- *Deutsch Heute*
 - *Second edition*
 - *Teil 3: Copymasters*
 - *Teil 3: Teacher's Resource Book*

For more information, contact John Sokolowski at 403–427–2984.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Basic Resources

Social Studies 30, Topic B

- *Global Forces of the Twentieth Century.*
Second edition

Teaching Resources

Social Studies 13, Topics A, B

- *Twentieth Century Canada: Teacher Guide*

OTHER NEWS

EVIDENCE AND INVESTIGATION VIDEOS

Grade 6 Science

Two brief videos introducing the process of forensic investigation have been developed by the Video Unit of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

- *Forensics: The Science of Uncovering the Crime: Program 1* (10 minutes)
- *Forensics: The Science of Uncovering the Crime: Program 2* (8 minutes).

These videos were prepared to support the Evidence and Investigation unit of the Grade 6 science program, and they are available to schools, without charge, by contacting:

René Huot, Video Unit Manager
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
11140 – 109 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5G 2T4
Telephone: 403-945-5760
Fax: 403-945-5602

PACIFIC RIM PROFILES

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada is launching a new *Education Series—Pacific Rim Profiles, APEC Map, and Teacher's Guide*—all written and developed in consultation with teachers from across Canada. This comprehensive series, which focuses on Canada's relationship with the countries of the Asia Pacific, is aimed specifically at secondary teachers, Grade 8 to Grade 12, curriculum coordinators, teacher-librarians and students. The series is for those seeking to incorporate up-to-date information on the Asia Pacific in social studies, Pacific Rim studies, economics or international business classes.

The *Education Series* is scheduled to be available in May 1997 and is to be updated annually.

For further information, or to request a brochure and order form, contact:

Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
Information Services
666-999 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC
V6C 3E1
Telephone: 604-684-5986
Fax: 604-681-1370
E-mail: kathy@apfc.apfnet.org

PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Partners in Learning is a handbook designed by the Alberta Teachers' Association to help principals, teachers, parents and students work together to increase parent involvement in promoting student success at all school levels. The handbook contains twelve theme modules, such as supporting the learner at home, involving school volunteers, resolving conflict, and understanding curriculum and evaluation.

Partners in Learning is filled with practical strategies and resources that were developed in Alberta schools and that can be used to generate effective parent involvement programs. The handbook would be of interest to school councils, parents, teachers and school administrators.

Two copies of the handbook were provided by the Alberta Teachers' Association to each school in Alberta. Additional copies can be purchased from the Alberta Teachers' Association, by contacting Lonnie Donick at 403-453-2411, Fax 403-455-6481.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS PROGRAM (SAIP)

Results of Science Assessment

Results of the Canada-wide SAIP assessment in science were released in January 1997. Alberta's results were the highest among provinces and territories in the country.

Approximately 2200 Alberta students, aged 13 and 16, participated in this assessment, which was administered in April 1996. A paper and pencil component and a hands-on component were included in the assessment. Results were reported in relation to five levels. Students aged 13, generally in Grade 7 or Grade 8, were expected to achieve at level 2 or better, and students aged 16 at level 3 or better.

This assessment was the third of a series developed by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). The mathematics assessment was administered in 1993, and the language arts assessment was administered in 1994. The second round of the mathematics assessment was scheduled for this spring, and will be followed in 1998 and 1999 by language arts and science respectively. Alberta's participation in national and international assessments provides valuable information to complement the provincial assessments and to help indicate the adequacy of Alberta's standards in these core academic areas.

For more information, contact Nelly McEwen at 403-427-0010.

STANDARDS IN EDUCATION VIDEO

A short, 10-minute concept video on education standards is now available. It is designed for use by schools and school district staff, school councils and other groups interested in education. The video explores the concept of standards in relation to the provincial programs of study and includes a brief example of how curriculum standards are applied in evaluating student performance. The video can be purchased from the LRDC. A copy is being sent to all school principals.

For more information, contact Jo-Anne Hug at 403-427-0010.

LEARNING RESOURCES DISTRIBUTING CENTRE (LRDC)

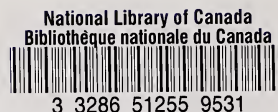
The LRDC *Buyers Guide* lists all the learning resources authorized by Alberta Education for use in Alberta schools. In response to customer needs, the LRDC also carries such resources as dictionaries, spellers, phonics, religious studies, maps and atlases.

As part of its commitment to quality customer service, the LRDC offers a suite of value-added services to assist customers in planning their selection of resources. In addition to the traditional, hard copy *Buyers Guide* ordering process, the LRDC also provides teachers, administrators and other customers with ordering capability and a wide variety of curricular and product information through three easy-to-use, electronic routes:

- LRDC internet web site at
<<http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca/lrdc>>
- LRDC on-line, dial-in service, which includes order status inquiry, or
- drill down to the LRDC through the Alberta Education web site.

For more information, contact Customer Service and Marketing at 403-427-5775.

The next issue of *Connection* is scheduled for the end of October 1997.



Connection is a publication of Alberta Education. For more information, or for additional copies, contact the Editor, Curriculum Standards Branch, 5th Floor, West Tower, Devonian Building, 11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5K 0L2, or:

Telephone: 403-422-4872

Fax: 403-422-0576

E-mail: LCrawford@edc.gov.ab.ca

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